

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/408,873

Examiner

Justin P. Misleh

Applicant(s)

SEEGER ET AL.

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed June 23, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are Claims 25 – 28, 34, 35, and 41 – 46 (now renumbered 1 – 12, respectively).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


VIVEK SRIVASTAVA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. **Claims 25 – 28, 34, 35, and 41 – 46 (now renumbered 1 – 12, respectively)** are allowed.

2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As least for **Claim 25**, the combination of Anderson in view Chevette et al., as previously shown in the Examiner-generated exemplary **Figure A** (see Final Office Action mailed July 1, 2005; page 6) would yield an extremely high-resolution panoramic image of an area generated from Image 1, Image 2, and Image 3, wherein Image 1 was captured when the camera is in a first position using the offset lens microscanning method of Chevette et al., wherein Image 2 was captured when the camera is in a second position also using the offset lens microscanning method of Chevette et al., and wherein Image 3 was captured when the camera is in a third position again using the offset lens microscanning method of Chevette et al. As clearly shown in **Figure A**, the lens is offset to offset position 1 in each of Images 1, 2, and 3; the lens is offset to offset position 2 in each of Images 1, 2, and 3; the lens is offset to offset position 3 in each of Images 1, 2, and 3; and the lens is offset to offset position 4 in each of Images 1, 2, 3 (see Chevette et al. Figure 1d for reference), thereby guaranteeing that the lens is in the same offset position when the camera is rotated from position to position. The offset lens microscanning method of Chevette et al. involves moving a lens a distance of a half a pixel pitch to record a microscanned image.

Therefore, the closest prior art does not teach or fairly suggest recording a view while a lens is positioned at a fixed offset position while the camera is at a first rotated position; then rotating the camera to a new position about an axis of rotation parallel to an optical axis of the lens; and then recording a second view while the lens is still positioned at the fixed offset position; and finally combining all the recorded views.

At least for **Claims 34, 41, 43 and 45**, the combination of Saund in view Chevrette et al., which is regarded as the closest prior art, yields an extremely high-resolution image of an area generated from captured image tiles, wherein a first captured image is captured by one camera of the array using an offset lens microscanning method, wherein a second captured image is captured by another one camera of the array also using the offset lens microscanning, and wherein at least a third captured image is captured by another one camera of the array using the offset lens microscanning method. The offset lens microscanning method of Chevrette et al. involves moving a lens a distance of a half a pixel pitch to record a microscanned image.

Therefore, the closest prior art does not teach or fairly suggest wherein at least a second of the plurality of cameras as a fixed offset lens to produce an oblique field of view.

3. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P Misleh whose telephone number is 571.272.7313. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on 571.272.7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.3000.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JPM
August 11, 2006



VIVEK SRIVASTAVA
PRIMARY EXAMINER